



**THANK YOU!**

The help of many dedicated citizens was essential to the development of the Little Pend Oreille National Wildlife Refuge Comprehensive Conservation Plan. We wish to thank all the individuals and organizations who assisted us in developing this Plan, the first this refuge has ever had. Hundreds of people have participated over the last five years to make this plan a reality. **THANK YOU!**

## **BECOME A FRIEND OF THE REFUGE**

Carrying out the plan will require citizen support. We will need volunteers to help with new and expanded programs in outdoor education, habitat restoration, and wildlife and habitat monitoring. Do you wish to become a volunteer or a Friend of Little Pend Oreille Refuge? Friends will:

- Provide support and advocacy for the Refuge;
- Assist with Refuge projects and programs
- Build community understanding of the Refuge as a place for wildlife first.

If interested, please contact Lisa Langelier, Refuge Manager, at (509) 684-8384.



# **Little Pend Oreille National Wildlife Refuge**

## *Planning Update #7*

### **The Record of Decision adopting the Little Pend Oreille Refuge Comprehensive Conservation Plan has been signed**

The Record of Decision (ROD) adopting the preferred alternative described in the Little Pend Oreille National Wildlife Refuge Final Environmental Impact Statement and associated Comprehensive Conservation Plan (Final CCP/EIS) was signed on May 31, 2000. Dan Diggs, acting Regional Director for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) signed the ROD upon the completion of a 30-day comment period following the release of the Final CCP/EIS.

Signing the ROD means that implementation of the adopted alternative may begin. The adopted alternative outlines actions to benefit wildlife and eliminate or modify uses that conflict with the primary wildlife conservation mission at the Refuge.

Preferred Alternative E (modified from the Draft EIS released last May), emphasizes management and restoration of habitat along with a mix of existing uses and priority recreation activities. Five alternatives, including a no-action alternative, were considered in the planning process.

If you received a complete copy of the 2-volume Final CCP/EIS, a copy of the ROD is enclosed. If you did not receive the Final EIS/CCP and wish a copy of the ROD or the Final EIS/CCP, you may download it from the Region 1 Refuge Planning website at

<http://www.r1.fws.gov/planning/plnhome.html>

You may also call the Refuge at (509) 684-8384 to request a copy.

## **What Kinds of Changes Will Happen This Summer and Fall?**

The Refuge plans to meet with interested horseback riders this summer to work on an equestrian plan. If interested, please contact Lisa Langelier, Refuge Manager.

The Refuge may also begin work on some pilot forest restoration projects, described in Appendix E of the Final CCP/EIS.

Dispersed riparian camping (camping within 300 feet of a stream, or within a

100-year floodplain) will be gradually phased out over the summer. The purpose of this action is to prevent further vegetation loss and erosion in riparian areas, and to begin rehabilitation of some sites. Notifications of closures will be posted at Refuge entrances. All five campgrounds will remain open under the CCP. If you have any questions or wish to assist in the effort to close and rehabilitate dispersed riparian camps, please contact the Refuge at the number above.